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MAIL STOP AF

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	Group Art Unit: 1754
TANAKA *et al.*	)	Examiner: Stuart L. Hendrickson
Serial No.: 10/608,262	)	
Filed: June 30, 2003	)	

For: **DYE FIXING AGENT FOR WATER-COLOR INK, INK JET RECORDING MEDIUM AND POROUS HYDROTALCITE COMPOUND**

Appendix A

Please amend the claims as indicated according to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 concerning a manner for making claim amendments.

Claims 1-18 (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A porous hydrotalcite compound represented by the following formula (1):

$$M^{II}_{1-x}Al_x(OH)_2(A_1^{n-})_a(A_2^{m-})_b \cdot yH_2O \qquad (1)$$

wherein M^{II} is Mg^{2+} or/and Zn^{2+}, A_1^{n-} is a silicic acid ion ($HSi_2O_5^-$) and a sulfuric acid ion (SO_4^{2-}), or a silicic acid ion ($HSi_2O_5^-$), A_2^{m-} is an anion selected from the group consisting of CO_3^{2-}, NO_3^-, Cl^- and OH^-, x and y satisfy $0.50 < x \leq 0.80$ and $0 < y < 2$, and ~~a and~~

b satisfy $0.50 < na + mb \leq 0.80$, and having a BET specific surface area of 50 to 400 m^2/g.

20. (Previously presented) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19, wherein A_1^{n-} is a silicic acid ion ($HSi_2O_5^-$) and a sulfuric acid ion (SO_6^{2-}).

21. (Previously presented) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19, wherein the silicic acid ion ($HSi_2O_5^-$) and the sulfuric acid ion (A_1^{n-}) accounts for 10 to 98 mol% of the total of all the anions ($A_1^{n-} + A_2^{m-}$).

22. (Previously presented) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19 which has a BET specific surface area of 100 to 300 m^2/g.

23. (Original) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19 which has a total pore volume (N_2 gas adsorption method) of 0.50 to 2.00 ml/g.

24. (Original) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19 which has an average pore radius (N_2 gas adsorption method) of 4 to 15 nm.

25. (Original) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19 which has an average particle diameter of 0.1 to 10 μm.

Claims 26-40 (Canceled)

41. (Previously presented) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19 which has a total pore volume (N_2 gas adsorption method) of 0.70 to 1.60 ml/g.

42. (Previously presented) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19 which has an average pore radius (N_2 gas adsorption method) of 7 to 10 nm.

43. (Previously presented) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19 which has an average particle diameter of 0.5 to 10 μm.

44. (Canceled)